

(a) a frame having an engine;
(b) a plurality of ground engaging wheels attached to the frame for movably supporting the frame for movement over the ground, the wheels comprising a first pair of wheels carried adjacent a front end of the frame and at least one rear wheel spaced on the frame from the front wheels and carried adjacent a rear end of the frame;

(c) at least one cutting unit carried on the frame for mowing grass, wherein the cutting unit(s) may be raised and lowered into and out of engagement with the ground and when lowered into engagement with the ground during a mowing operation have their weight carried by the ground and not the frame; and

(d) a hydraulic drive system for driving the ground engaging wheels of the frame, which drive system comprises:

(i) a source of pressurized fluid;
(ii) individual hydraulic drive motors operatively engaged to each of the ground engaging wheels of the frame; and

(iii) means for connecting the hydraulic motors to the source of pressurized fluid in the following manner:

the wheel drive motor(s) for the rear wheel(s) is connected in series to the fluid source and to the wheel drive motors for the front wheels; and

the wheel drive motors for the front wheels are connected to each other in parallel.

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21. A ^{mower} ~~vehicle~~ as recited in claim 20, wherein only a single rear wheel is carried adjacent a rear end of the frame.

11/22. A ^{mower} ~~vehicle~~ as recited in claim ¹⁰21, wherein the engine is mounted on the rear of the frame generally above the rear wheel.

12/23. A ^{mower} ~~vehicle~~ as recited in claim ⁹20, wherein a plurality of cutting units are carried on the front of the frame.

13/24. A ^{mower} ~~vehicle~~ as recited in claim ¹²23, wherein one cutting unit is located on the frame in advance of each front wheel.

14/25. A ^{mower} ~~vehicle~~ as recited in claim ¹³24, wherein each of the wheels is provided with tires having substantially no tread to avoid marring or scuffing the surface of a golf green when the mower is used to mow such green.

26. A hydraulically driven turf maintenance vehicle having all wheel drive, which comprises:

(a) a frame having an engine;

(b) a plurality of ground engaging wheels attached to the frame for movably supporting the frame for movement over the ground, the wheels comprising a first pair of wheels carried adjacent a first end of the frame and at least one wheel spaced on the frame from the first pair of wheels carried adjacent a second end of the frame;

(c) at least one operating unit carried on the frame for performing a turf maintenance operation, wherein the operating unit(s) may be raised and lowered into and out of engagement with the ground and when lowered into engagement with the ground during a turf maintenance operation have their weight carried by the ground and not the frame; and